

Appl. No. 09/720,149
Final Amendment and/or Response
Reply to final Office action of 21 October 2004

Page 9 of 10

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application.

The Office action indicates that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of each parent claim. Claim 7 is correspondingly amended herein.

The Office action rejects claims 1, 5, 8, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Endo (USP 6,363,491) and 2findit ("RE: USB Problems" in ISPnews[online].alt.sys.pc-clone.dell newsgroup, January 7, 1999). The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1, upon which claims 5 and 8 depend, claims a device comprising a control circuit that is arranged to detect whether a power supply is connected to the device by monitoring a voltage at a node, and to signal the host station that the device is in a slave mode by controlling the voltage at the node.

Claim 9 claims a USB apparatus comprising a controller that is configured to determine whether power is being provided to the apparatus via a USB bus by monitoring a voltage at a node, and indicating a connection of the apparatus to the USB bus by controlling the voltage at the node.

In each of these independent claims, the same node is used to detect the power supply voltage and to signal the host, thereby minimizing the number of pins on the control circuit (applicants' page 6, lines 5-9).

Endo does not explicitly teach signaling the host that the device is in a slave mode, and specifically does not teach that such signaling would be effected by controlling a node that is used to detect whether power is being provided by the host. 2findit is silent with regard to detecting power and with signaling the host.

Because neither Endo nor 2findit, individually or collectively, teach or suggest detecting power and signaling a connection by monitoring and controlling the same node, as specifically claimed by the applicants, the applicants respectfully request the

Appl. No. 09/720,149
Final Amendment and/or Response
Reply to final Office action of 21 October 2004

Page 10 of 10

Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1, 5, 8, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Endo and 2findit.

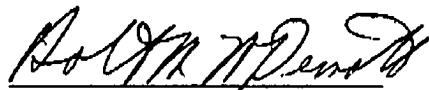
The Office action rejects claims 2, 6, and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Endo, 2findit, and Tsai et al. (USP 6,101,076, hereinafter Tsai). The applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, based on the remarks above regarding claims 1 and 9, upon which each of these rejected claims depend, and based on the following remarks.

Tsai teaches controlling a node CTRL to signal a connection of a device to the USB bus, but does not teach or suggest determining whether power is being provided by monitoring this node. Tsai specifically teaches two other signals, Reset and Overflow, that are used to determine whether to effect the CTRL signaling.

Because neither Endo, nor 2findit, nor Tsai, individually or collectively, teach or suggest detecting power and signaling a connection by monitoring and controlling the same node, as specifically claimed by the applicants, the applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claims 2, 6, and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Endo, 2findit, and Tsai.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert M. McDermott
Reg. 41,508
Att'y for Applicant(s)

1824 Federal Farm Road
Montross, VA 22520
Phone: (804) 493-0707
Fax: (215) 243-7525